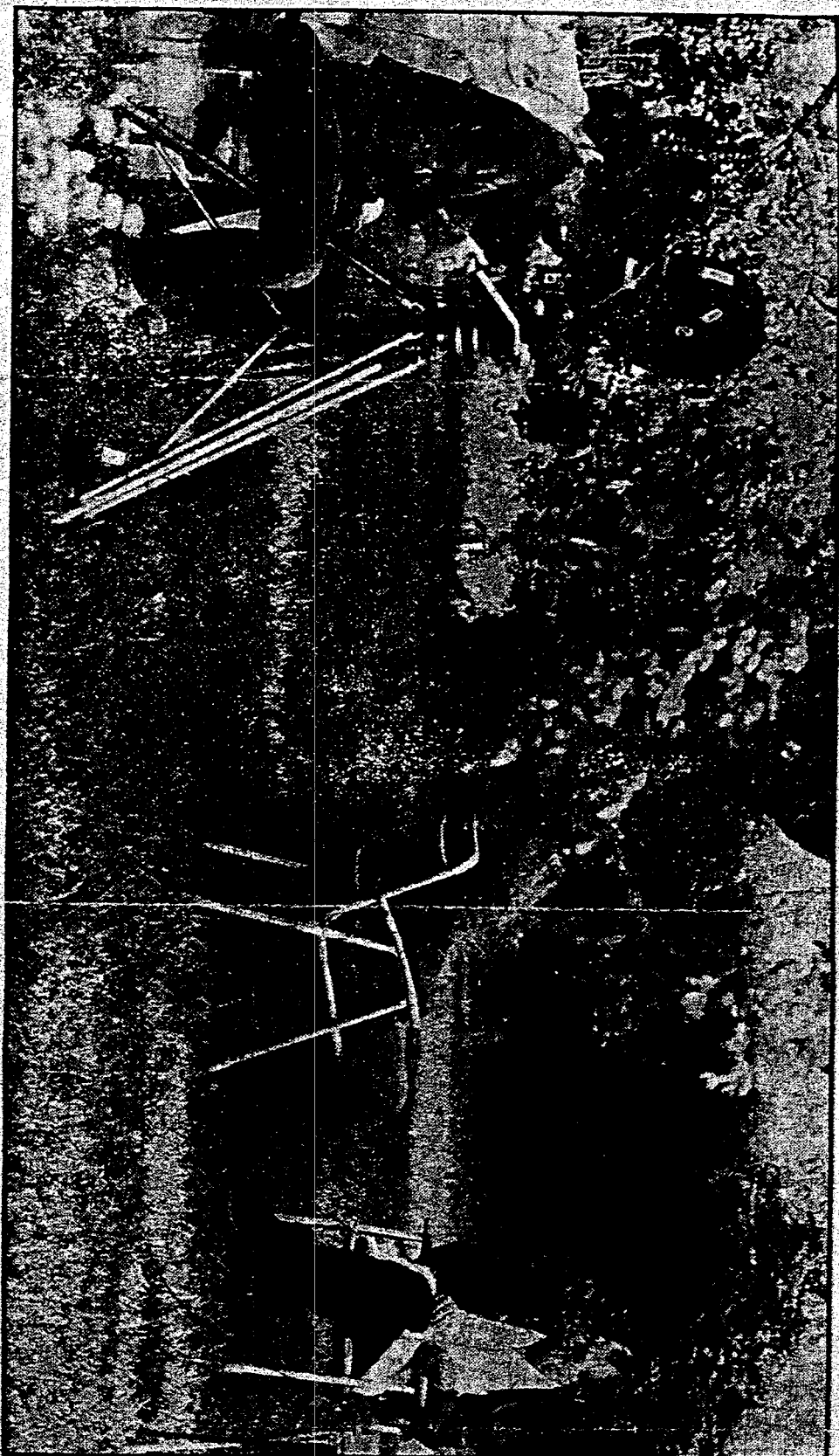


Bilco, Miss. Daily Herald, 11-22-80



Bill Gaudet (right) is interviewed on lawn of his Waveland home

BILL ELMORE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From Bay of Pigs to Dallas

Bill Gaudet of Waveland is a former journalist and businessman who served undercover for years as a Central Intelligence Agency operative in Latin America.

11/22/80-B101, M61.

By BILL GAUDET

SPECIAL TO THE SUN/DAILY HERALD

The passing of each new anniversary makes ever deeper my own conviction that the roots of the intricate conspiracy which led to the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963 of the late President John Kennedy had their first beginnings in the bitterness which followed the infamous Bay of Pigs disgraceful debacle.

Too many brave young men, Cubans and Americans, were killed; too many were wounded; too many were captured and too few managed to escape from the swamps of Cuba in their small boats for the incident to simply be forgotten.

Hardest to take was the belief that the ill-fated April invasion could have succeeded if the one thing the men needed, air-cover, had not been taken away from them by the one man who had promised them that protection. And that man who gave the signal to keep the planes

grounded in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala was President John Kennedy.

I never played a role in the Bay of Pigs, though I unknowingly helped set up alternate air bases in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala for use by the planes to protect that invasion of Cuba.

The Warren commission wanted all of us to accept the theory that Lee Harvey Oswald was the one man, acting alone, who killed Kennedy in Dallas during that never-to-be-forgotten parade with Texas Gov. John Connally. I was never called by the Warren Commission, even though several curious circumstances surfaced.

I unknowingly got a visa for travel to Mexico the same day Oswald did. That in itself could be a coincidence except that on the list of arriving Americans, my name had been carefully deleted. Why? This fact was brought to my attention by the crews of the Canadian and British broadcasting systems when they made documentaries in the past few years.

Another curious event happened in 1963. Someone telephoned the FBI and said he was William Gaudet and he had seen Jack Ruby in the French Quarter in New Orleans. Why did he use my name? Why not John Doe

or some other made-up name? I did not make that call. I had never seen Jack Ruby, though on several occasions I had seen Oswald harrying off jetsets in front of the International Trade Mart in New Orleans.

On the one hand someone injected my name to the FBI on the Ruby French Quarter hoax and then on the other hand someone had my name carefully removed from the list of arrivals in Mexico. To me it looks as though someone was using me as a red herring. That someone had to know Latin America, had to have influence to get my name deleted from the Mexican document and had to have known that I had done some work for the CIA.

These curious circumstances led up to my being called as a witness before a Congressional hearing where little was resolved.

It all adds up to confusion and that is what the events surrounding the assassination of Kennedy have been from the very moment that first shot was fired.

Of one thing I am sure: My conviction remains that the beginnings of the plot to assassinate John Kennedy were born in the aftermath to that disgraceful Bay of Pigs tragedy.